

**Food aid goes to USDA.** By Helen Murphy, *Devex Newswire*, 15 Jan 2026

## New home

Food for Peace, USAID's flagship food aid program, **has found a temporary home at the U.S. Department of Agriculture** following the signing of an interagency agreement between the State Department and USDA, [U.S. lawmakers say](#).

Several industry sources tell Devex the agreement was finalized just before the holidays.

"Allowing USDA to administer the Food for Peace program equips American producers to serve hungry people while **providing more transparency and efficiency** as to how taxpayer dollars are stewarded," says Rep. **Tracey Mann**, a Republican from Kansas, in a statement applauding the agreement.

**Food for Peace has long enjoyed bipartisan support** — many of the U.S. farmers the program buys from are in red states and districts.

Under the previous setup, [USAID](#) oversaw Food for Peace, [USDA](#) purchased commodities from U.S. farmers, and distribution was handled through partners such as WFP. That long-standing role has made USDA a natural landing place in the eyes of many Republicans.

Indeed, Mann and other lawmakers introduced legislation in February 2025 to formally move the program to USDA.

Still, there are [significant questions about institutional capacity](#), and **Dina Esposito**, the program's former director, warns [the move could be "disastrous."](#)

For now, the move is temporary, **but it could soon become permanent**: "I will continue to fight for Food for Peace to be permanently placed under USDA so that America can continue to be the beacon of hope and freedom we are to the rest of the world," Mann says.

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